

can be improved to strengthen labor rights and our ties to our neighbors. The goal is to make sure that trade lifts all people up, that it creates growth with equity.

I also understand that last night Majority Leader FRIST and Minority Leader DASCHLE discussed the possibility that the Senate will soon pass an extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. While some Senators have concerns with AGOA III that must still be resolved, and we should provide adequate time to address those concerns, I would like the record to show that I support this important legislation and would like to see it enacted.

Today, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa face some of the world's greatest challenges to export growth, including insufficient domestic markets, lack of investment capital, and poor transportation and power infrastructures. Perhaps most devastating, the region continues to be ravaged by the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic. AGOA provides a door to a brighter future for these nations. By enhancing and enabling economic, legal and political reform, AGOA sets the stage for economic growth and political stability in the region, and helps lift up the lives of the people of Africa.

Through our trading relationships, the United States can help spread effective political, economic and legal institutions to regions of the world that are vulnerable to political instability, civil war and global terrorism. Ensuring sub-Saharan African economic integration is one of the surest ways to cultivate new and powerful allies in the war on terror.

AGOA is an integral part of a broader partnership with Africa that must also include progress on debt relief and stepped-up efforts to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Given the importance of AGOA to the future we share with Africa, I hope the remaining concerns of my colleagues can be addressed to ensure the passage of AGOA III. Passing this critical extension of AGOA will send a powerful signal to Africa and the world that the United States is committed to extending the benefits of the global economy to all those willing to make the necessary economic, legal and political reforms.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 89

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report: which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on June 24, 2003, 68 Fed. Reg. 37389.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have also become a concern. All of these actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 24, 2004.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 218. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

H.R. 1731. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish penalties for aggravated identity theft, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4053. An act to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4345. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of home loan guaranty available under the home loan guaranty program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4548. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 460. Concurrent resolution regarding the security of Israel and the principles of peace in the Middle East.

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2507. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2017. An act to designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building".

H.R. 4635. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4053. An act to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4345. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of home loan guaranty available under the home loan guaranty program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4548. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

The following concurrent resolution was read the first and the second times